

years, where he represented the interests of his constituents at Patrick Air Force Base and Cape Canaveral Air Station, and surrounding aerospace community. He is the co-founder and chairman of the Congressional Aerospace Caucus.

Rep. WELDON is also a member of the Autism Caucus, the Cancer Caucus, the Renewable Energy Caucus, the Tourism Caucus, and the Military Veterans Caucus. He is a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 453A, known as the "Rocket Post," in Rockledge, Florida.

Madam Speaker, I rise to again express my appreciation, as well as those of the people of the State of Florida and my colleagues in Congress, for the dedication of Dr. DAVE WELDON in his service in the United States Congress. My best wishes go out to him and his family for his future endeavors.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "FIXING  
THE FEDERAL VOTING ASSISTANCE  
PROGRAM ACT OF 2008"

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 3, 2008*

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, today, along with Representative HONDA (D-CA), I am introducing the "Fixing the Federal Voting Assistance Program Act of 2008" which would do two things: (1) make the Director of the Federal Voting Assistance Office a presidential nominee confirmable by the Senate, and (2) create an advisory board to strengthen oversight of the office to ensure better access to the ballot by overseas military and civilians voters.

The recent history of the Federal Voter Assistance Program (FVAP) is one of clear lapses in the Government's efforts to help ensure access to the ballot for thousands of

overseas voters, both civilian and military in recent elections. This legislation is designed to bring greater attention to the voting office in the Department of Defense and enhanced oversight to ensure that it does its job of providing greater access to voting for our soldiers, sailors and airmen, their families, as well as civilians living overseas.

The "Fixing the Federal Voting Assistance Program Act" is a necessary step in ensuring that overseas voters are counted in elections. Unfortunately, it will not help with the coming election. I believe that Americans serving in the military abroad or civilians residing overseas will still not have adequate help from the Government in facilitating their right of access to the ballot. I and Representative HONDA believe we need to start working on improving access to the next election now while the problems are still fresh in our minds so that we are not facing them again in 2010.

COMMEMORATING TAIWAN'S  
NATIONAL DAY

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 3, 2008*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Taiwan's National Day, also known as Double Ten Day. This day marks a special moment in Taiwan's history. It was the start of the Wuchang uprising that led to the overthrow of the Ching dynasty and laid the foundation for the establishment of the first democracy founded in Asia.

Taiwan has been a long time supporter and ally of the United States and its people. Taiwan continues to be our ally in the war on terrorism by cooperating with humanitarian assistance in Iraq and Afghanistan. They have shown generosity and compassion by contributing to the Twin Towers Fund and Pentagon

Memorial Fund, and now to the victims of Hurricane Katrina. Continually, Taiwan has proved to be a true ally to the people of the United States.

In sharing the same beliefs in freedom and democracy, we can further our ties by protecting these ideas in our countries and throughout the world. May this year's celebration be one of the most memorable and enjoyed in Taiwan's history.

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE  
BUD CRAMER AND THE HONORABLE  
TERRY EVERETT ON  
THEIR RETIREMENT FROM CONGRESS

SPEECH OF

**HON. JIM COOPER**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 25, 2008*

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, for 18 years, Members of Congress have had the pleasure of working with an exemplary representative. And for 18 years, the constituents of northern Alabama have been represented by an extraordinary man. Today, I would like to honor the service of my friend and colleague, BUD CRAMER.

Over his time here in Congress, BUD has generated a noteworthy list of accomplishments: co-founder of the Blue Dog Coalition, one of the strongest allies for NASA, and a tireless advocate for children, authoring the monumental National Children's Advocacy Program Act. He managed to balance national needs while staying true to his Huntsville roots. BUD, your absence will be a loss not just for the Blue Dog Coalition, not just for Congress, but for the Nation as a whole. I wish you the best in your years to come.